

**Board for Geologists and Geophysicists**

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**Minutes of the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists
May 18, 2007 Board Meeting**

1. Roll Call to Establish a Quorum and Public Forum

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and a quorum established. The following Board Members were not present at the time of roll call: Shirley Husar (arrived at 10:30 a.m.); Shayan Samii (arrived 12:30 pm); Jeffrey Schmidt (absent).

Mr. Buzz Spellman provided public comment in support of what the Board is doing.

2. Minutes

Board Action: Approval of February 16, 2007 Board meeting minutes was moved (Yu) and seconded (Blake). Motion adopted 4-0.

3. Executive Officer/Staff Report

Mr. Rempel reported on the following:

- Four new student assistant positions, including a special "Dr. Matthews Geologic Assistant" position to honor the late Dr. Robert (Bob) Matthews.
- Informative "sunset review" discussions with legislative consultants Bill Gage and G.V. Ayers in the office of Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas.
- Importance of public outreach activities and the fact that the Board is self-funded.
- Options for a new, updated "strategic plan."

Board Action: A motion directing Board Member Blake to meet with Mr. Rempel to complete a draft "interim" strategic plan document for consideration at the August 3, 2007 Board meeting was moved (Blake) and seconded (Ashby). Motion adopted 4-0.

Mr. Rempel reported on the following:

- State of California Emergency Partnership Advisory Workshop – an innovative public/private partnership working together to prepare California for future disasters.
- Continued interest by National Groundwater Association in partnering with the Board on Hydrogeologist certification examination.

Mr. Spellman provided public comment about potential difficulties of national hydrogeologist certification.

Mr. Rempel reported on the following:

- An Information Security Audit in early April 2007 contributed to improved office procedures for privacy protection and examination security.
- FY 06-07 budget with improved revenues, an increasing Professional Geologist population and steady decline in the number of Professional Geophysicists.

Ms. Roz Monro provided public comment in support of an inactive license status. Mr. Charles Nestle commented on the current budget situation.

Protection of the public shall be the highest priority of the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount. (Business and Professions Code §7810.1)

Mr. Rempel reported having received personal greetings and offer to help from the Executive Director of ASBOG®.

Mr. Dunfield delivered the "Enforcement Report" noting

- A growing backlog of unresolved enforcement cases due to recent focus on examination and application process improvements.
- Joint effort with the Legal Office to resolve jurisdictional issues with Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

Mr. Spellman provided public comment regarding efforts in the past to clarify and resolve jurisdictional issues between practice of geology and practice of engineering.

President Black adjourned for lunch at 11:55 a.m. and reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

Mr. Dunfield reported on the following:

- March 2, 2007 examination process and lessons learned.
- New examination processes, forms, and procedures being developed and implemented, including increased focus on professional references and quality of professional experience.

Board Action: A motion to accept passing scores on ASBOG® Fundamentals and Practice of Geology examinations taken on or after January 1, 2000 was moved (Samii) and seconded (Husar). Motion adopted 6-0.

Mr. Dunfield reported two successful public outreach events: San Diego County Site Assessment and Mitigation (SAM) Annual Update and Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Geosymposium '07; and previewed Board representation at the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG) 50th Annual Meeting later this year in Los Angeles.

Mr. Frank Jordan spoke regarding local government requirements that affect engineering geologist projects. Mr. Rick Gundry presented a letter to the Board and commented on the need for better Board communications with licensees than in the past.

4. Committee Reports

Examination Committee (EC): President Black reported that more questions for examinations are needed from the profession.

Board Action: A motion to confirm Donn Ristau as member of the EC was moved (Samii) and seconded (Blake). Motion adopted 6-0.

Board Action: A motion to direct the Examination Committee to assemble a California Supplemental exam that includes 60 or more items that "...test the applicant's knowledge of state laws, rules and regulations, and of seismicity and geology unique to practice in California..." pursuant to Business and Professions Code §7841(d) was moved (Samii) and seconded (Husar). Motion adopted 6-0.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC): Mr. Nestle, a member of the TAC, commented on the information from the May 2006 candidate handbook workshop for use in the development of the revised California Supplemental examination.

Board Action: A motion directing the TAC to investigate and report at the August 3, 2007 Board meeting on the following areas of knowledge: (i) state laws, rules and regulations unique to practice in California; (ii) seismicity unique to practice in California; and (iii) geology unique to practice in California was moved (Blake) and seconded (Husar). Motion adopted 6-0.

Enforcement Oversight Committee (EOC): Mr. Dunfield noted opportunity for EOC to assist with the California Supplemental Examination.

Board Action: A motion directing the EOC to prepare questions for inclusion in the California Supplemental Examination that incorporate elements of past enforcement actions was moved (Samii) and seconded (Yu). Motion adopted 5-0.

5. Closed Session

Pursuant to Government Code §11126(a) and (b), §11126(c)(1), §11126(c)(3) and §11126(e)(1), the Board went into Closed Session to discuss personnel matters, examination procedures and results, administrative adjudication and pending litigation: Superior Court Case No. 02CC17018.

6. Open Session to announce results of Closed Session

President Black announced the Board had discussed personnel matters, examination procedures and results and pending litigation.

7. Board Member Reports

President Black asked Board Member Yu to replace former Board Member Schmidt on the Legislative Committee. Board Member Yu accepted and the Board concurred.

Board Member Ashby reported his involvement in “advocacy committee” for the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEEG) is a good resource for the Board.

Board Action: A motion to send a letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 1047 to Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair, Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development was moved and seconded. Motion adopted 6-0.

Indicating his continued support for such efforts, Board Member Blake thanked staff for recent and planned future outreach activities.

8. Other announcements

Mr. Nestle provided public comment regarding the Strategic Plan and pending legislation (SB 963) that could impact the Board.

9. Adjourn

President Black adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

William E. Black, Board President

Richard R. Rempel, Board Executive Officer

Date Approved: August 3, 2007